

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TSPA, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

1. LIST OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY, REPEAT MAY, BE LEFT IN MADAGASCAR UPON COMPLETION OF SETTLEMENT OF ISSUE HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY NASA AND DOD.
2. NASA FEELS THAT EXPOSURE OF SPECIFIC LIST TO SOLOFOSON AT THIS TIME COULD INDICATE A WEAKENING OF USG POSITION TO GDRM, AND COULD BE VIEWED BY THE GDRM AS OVER-EAGERNESS ON THE PART OF THE USG TO SETTLE THE ISSUE.
3. THEREFORE, NASA PREFERS TO WITHHOLD LISTING OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AT THIS TIME.

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4. HOWEVER, IN MEETING WITH SOLOFOSON, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE USG WOULD LIKE TO REMOVE IMPEDIMENTS TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE, THEREFORE, AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE AND WE HOPE THE GDRM IS OF THE SAME VIEW.

B. AS YOU WILL RECALL FROM MY AIDE MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER

1977, WE ARE WILLING TO MAKE A GOODWILL PAYMENT OF UP TO \$200,000, IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS AS STATED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE ARE MET. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE LONGER A DECISION ON THIS MATTER IS POSTPONED, THE MORE THE EQUIPMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GDRM TO ALLOW A SURVEY TEAM TO INSPECT THE EQUIPMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE THE BETTER THE CONDITION OF THE EQUIPMENT, THE HIGHER WILL BE THE GOODWILL PAYMENT.

C. WE ASSUME THAT ONCE AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED, WE COULD QUICKLY PACK AND SHIP THAT EQUIPMENT IT IS AGREED WE WOULD REMOVE, AND THE REMAINDER WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE GDRM.

D. ONCE THE SURVEY TEAM HAS MADE ITS INSPECTION, IF THAT INSPECTION CAN BE ARRANGED SOON, I UNDERSTAND WE HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION RECOMMENDING THE TRANSFER OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF THE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IN THE STATION TO THE GDRM. THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD THEN BE AVAILABLE TO THE MALAGASY SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES. THE EQUIPMENT IN THE STATION COST MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THE SOONER A DECISION CAN BE REACHED, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEREFORE, THE GREATER WILL BE THE VALUE OF THE EQUIPMENT TURNED OVER TO THE GDRM.

E. WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM TO MAKE ITS INSPECTION WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. WE ARE ONLY AWAITING THE DECISION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.

5. FYI: THE TOTAL AQUISITION VALUE OF THE MATERIAL WHICH NASA PLANS TO LEAVE ON THE SITE IS \$13,895,000.00 IN BOTH REAL PROPERTY AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS NASA WILLING TO TOTALLY ABANDON STATION EQUIPMENT WITHOUT PRESSING A CLAIM ON THE GDRM. END FYI.

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